

## Message Text

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11

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 EB-07 JUSE-00 FBIE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCA-01 /034 W

----- 042422

R 281258Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2953

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

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DEPT FOR A/SY DIKEOS, SCA AND NEA/ARP FROM AMBASSADOR

KUWAIT FOR RSO

E.O. 11652 : N/A

TAGS : ASEC, BA

SUBJECT : GULF FERTILIZER DEAL

REFERENCE : (A) 75 MANAMA 472, (B) MEMO DATED MARCH 26 1916

FROM CHIEF, DIVISION OF INVESTIGATIONS, OFFICE

OF SECURITY TO RSO KUWAIT-SUBJECT: BRIGGS,

RICHARD J; GILLIAM, DONALD A.

1. REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER BRIDGEWATER, CURRENTLY VISITING BAHRAIN, HAS INSTRUCTIONS (REF B) TO ASSIST IN FBI INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE CRIMINAL OFFENSE UNDER U.S. JURISDICTION IN CONNECTION WITH GULF FERTILIZER DEAL REPORTED REF A. IN CLOSEST CONSULTATION WITH EMBASSY HE IS PROCEEDING WITH CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE INVESTIGATION AND WILL BE REPORTING SEPTEL.

2. BRIDGEWATER'S PURSUIT OF INVESTIGATION IS HAMPERED BY SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS WHICH ARE DETAILED SEPTEL.

3. AT THE TIME THIS ALLEGED FRAUD WAS BREAKING I DISCUSSED

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IT WITH APPROPRIATE BAHRAINI MINISTERS WHO ASSURED ME THAT,

WHILE BAHRAIN WAS MILDLY EMBARRASSED BY PUBLICITY SURROUNDING CASE (PARTICULARLY WITH FACT THAT THE BAHRAINI INVOLVED HAD EITHER FRAUDULENTLY POSED OR ERRONEOUSLY BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A MEMBER OF THE RULING FAMILY), GOB WAS NOT SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THIS SCANDAL ON U.S.- BAHRAINI ECONOMIC RELATIONS. WHILE I SEE NO PROBLEM IN QUIETLY RESUMING INVESTIGATION HERE THROUGH POLICE AUTHORITIES, I WOULD BE LOATHE TO PRECIPITATE RENEWED PUBLICITY. MY PARTICULAR CONCERN IS THAT THE PERSON IN BAHRAIN MOST BROADLY (IF NOT NECESSARILY ACCURATELY) KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE FERTILIZER SCANDAL IS GULF WEEKLY MIRROR EDITOR KEMBALL WHO IS STILL ITCHING TO MAKE HIS MARK IN JOURNALISM THROUGH THIS STORY. KEMBALL SEEMS PARTICULARLY FOND OF REPORTING INCIDENTS THAT SHOW THE U.S. IN A BAD LIGHT IN THE GULF AND IS FRUSTRATED THAT NEITHER THIS EMBASSY NOR GOB APPEARED AS EXCITED ABOUT THE FERTILIZER CASE AS HE WAS. HE IS STILL LOOKING FOR HIS STORY AND I THINK WE WOULD BE ILL-ADVISED TO BRING ANY U.S. INVESTIGATOR DIRECTLY IN CONTACT WITH HIM OR TO LET IT BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE HERE THAT WE ARE INVESTIGATING.

4. MY CONCERN AT MOMENT, HOWEVER, IS WHETHER USG IS IN THE RIGHT CHANNEL IN PURSUING INVESTIGATION IN BAHRAIN. EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER SY WAS ON DISTRIBUTION OF OUR 1975 REPORTING (REF A). AT SAME TIME, REF B GIVES NO INDICATION THAT SY, IN FORWARDING FBI'S REQUEST, WOULD IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF EVENTS HAVE REASON TO CONSULT WITH SCA, NEA/ARP OR OTHER DEPARTMENT OR USG OFFICES WITH SOME PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF CASE. ON THE BASIS OF OUR LIMITED INFORMATION OF STATUS OF CRIMINAW INVESTIGATION IN U.S., EMBASSY IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE SEEKING PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS THROUGH SY CHANNELS OR ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE THROUGH CONSULAR DEPOSITIONS. THEREFORE REQUEST OFFICES SLUGGED THIS MESSAGE CONSULT TO DETERMINE: (A) WHETHER INVESTIGATIVE REQUEST IN REF B (WHICH INCLUDED REQUESTS FOR COPIES OF HOTEL, IMMIGRATION, BANK AND NEWSPAPER DOCUMENTS) SHOULD BE REVISED IN LIGHT OF OTHER INFORMATION IN DEPARTMENTS FILES (REF A AND PREVIOUS) AND (B) WHETHER BRIDGEWATER SHOULD PURSUE INVESTIGATION FURTHER AT THIS TIME.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ellisoob  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Film Number:** D760162-0721  
**From:** MANAMA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760414/aaaaalle.tel  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** : GULF FERTILIZER DEAL  
**TAGS:** ASEC, BA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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